

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1747

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YS, SA, US, MU

SUBJECT: US-PDRY RELATIONS; PDRY-OMAN BORDER SITUATION

REF: 75 STATE 288332

1. I TOLD FONMIN ZAWAWI JAN. 7 OF CONTINUED VOID IN US-PDRY COMMUNICATIONS, AND SAID WE DO NOT EXPECT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON US-PDRY RELATIONS FOR THE PRESENT. TOLD HIM WE HAD REASSURED SAUDIS WE WILL NOT GET OUT AHEAD OF THEM ON RAPPROACHEMENT, AND THAT NOTWITHSTANDING VARIOUS REPORTS AND RUMORS OF PROGRESS IN SAUDI-PDRY NEGOTIATIONS, WASHINGTON SEES NO EVIDENCE OF CHANGES WITHIN PDRY WHICH MIGHT MAKE THESE REPORTS CREDIBLE.

2. ZAWAWI, BACK ONLY A WEEK AFTER LENGTHY DECEMBER DENTAL WORK IN LONDON, SAID HE BELIEVED PDRY HARDHEADEDNESS WILL CONTINUE AND THAT HE DOES NOT SEE A SAUDI-PDRY AGREEMENT FORTHCOMING. HE COMMENTED THAT WHILE SAUDIS KEEP THE SULTAN FAIRLY WELL INFORMED IN GENERAL TERMS OF THEIR TALKS WITH ADEN, DETAILS OFTEN ARE LACKING OR NOT PROVIDED AT ALL. NONETHELESS, HE THINKS SAUDIS MEAN IT WHEN THEY SAY THEY ARE INSISTING TO ADENIS THAT PDRY MODERATION WITH RESPECT TO DHOFAR IS AT TOP OR NEAR THE TOP OF SAUDI CONDITIONS TO BE MET BEFORE RELATIONS AND AID WILL BE AGREED.

3. ZAWAWI MADE SURPRISING COMMENT THAT BECAUSE OF CONTINUING PDRY SHELLING OF OMANI POSITIONS IN DHOFAR, OMAN HAS MADE OCCASIONAL, SELECTIVE AERIAL RETALIATION ATTACKS AGAINST

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HAUF AREA OF SOUTH YEMEN IN RECENT WEEKS. (THIS IS CONTRARY

TO WHAT OTHER SOURCES HAVE BEEN TELLING US, AND WE WILL BE
SEEKING DETAILS FROM OUR REGULAR MILITARY CONTACTS.) ASKED
IF PDRY HAS TAKEN ANY NEW, MENACING MILITARY STEPS ON THEIR
SIDE OF BORDER SINCE SULTAN QABOOS PUBLICLY WARNED ABOUT PDRY
INTENTIONS ON DEC. 23, ZAWAWI SAID NO.
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